

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 187290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT:TOUR BY AAU SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

REF: BERLIN 6476

1. SINCE AAU TEAM WILL ONLY BE CHOSEN AUGUST 21 AT OUTDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LOS ANGELES, TEAM CANNOT DEPART UNTIL
AUGUST 22. LATER DEPARTURE DATE WOULD ALSO BE UNSUITABLE,
GIVEN TRAINING NEEDS PRIOR TO AUGUST 27-28 US-GDR MEET.
AAU AQUATICS ADMINISTRATOR ROY ESSICK HOWEVER, HAS BEEN
TOLD THAT ALL COPENHAGEN-SCHONEFELD FLIGHTS AUGUST 23 ARE
ALREADY BOOKED AND THAT GDR AIR REGULATIONS PROHIBIT
ACCEPTING EXTRA SECTION AT SCHONEFELD. AAU HAS, THEREFORE,
ARRANGED TO HAVE 75-MEMBER TEAM LED BY DR. JOHN BOGERT
LEAVE LOS ANGELES AUGUST 22 VIA LU-453 TO FRANKFURT WITH
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PAGE 02 STATE 187290

ONWARD FLIGHT TO WEST BERLIN VIA PAA-698, ARRIVING 1715
AUGUST 23. ESSICK WROTE ON JULY 15 TO DR. LEHMAN, GENERAL

SECRETARY OF GDR SWIMMING FEDERATION, REQ"STING BUS
TRANSPORTATION FROM TEMPELHOF TO HOTEL STADT BERLIN IN
EAST BERLIN AND ADVISING HIM OF NEED TO OBTAIN TEAM'S VISAS
AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANSWER.

2. GRAY, EUR/CE, INFORMED ESSICK AUGUST 8 THAT, GIVEN

ITINERARY PARA ONE, EMBASSY COULD NOT PROVIDE VISA SUPPORT NOR COULD IT BE PART OF WELCOMING DELEGATION. HE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND PREFERENCE TO FLY TEAM INTO SCHONEFELD AUGUST 23, IF IT COULD BE ARRANGED.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY BERLIN CONTACT LEHMAN, STORCKAUER STR. 118, BERLIN 1055, AND, WITHOUT REFERRING TO WEST BERLIN ALTERNATIVE ITINERARY, SEEK HIS ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING AUGUST 23 COPENHAGEN-SCHONEFELD FLIGHT. YOU MAY REFER TO AAU SELECTION/TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, ITS PREFERENCE FOR AUGUST 23 SCHONEFELD ARRIVAL AND SHARED US-GDR DESIRE THAT MEET GO OFF SMOOTHLY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP (GIT CHARTER DEADLINE APPROACHING) WHETHER EXTRA FLIGHT POSSIBLE AND WHETHER VISAS CAN BE ISSUED AT SCHONEFELD.

4. FOR BERLIN: ESSICK INDICATES TEAM PLANS TRAIN AUGUST 24-26, COMPETE 27-28 AND TAKE SIGHTSEEING TRIP TO DRESDEN ON 29TH. THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS RECEPTION FOR AUGUST 30. SINCE 15-MEMBER DIVING GROUP DEPARTING MORNING AUGUST 30 FOR USSR, APPROXIMATELY 60 SWIMMERS AND AAU OFFICIALS COULD ATTEND. FYI MEET WILL BE TELEVISED IN US SEPTEMBER 4. END FYI
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PAGE 03 STATE 187290

5. FOR MOSCOW: ESSICK ALSO HOPES SOVIET VISAS CAN BE OBTAINED IN BERLIN PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR LENINGRAD DUAL MEET. MAIN BODY SCHEDULED LEAVE BERLIN 0915 AUGUST 31 VIA SU 610 (NOT CONFIRMED) AND ARRIVE LENINGRAD 1325. DELEGATION LEAVING 0855 SEPTEMBER 6 VIA SU 641 FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 3-4 COMPETITION. CHRISTOPHER

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